Make a Tiny House

Suggested age: 5 & up! Fun for the whole family

Gather

- Boxes
- Hot glue gun/glue
- Tape
- Pencils/markers
- Various materials from around the house: bottle caps, old toothbrushes, buttons, paperclips, toothpicks, paper cups, cotton swabs/balls, pipe cleaners, twigs, golf tees, yarn/string, thread spools, old jewelry or beads, fabric scraps

Let's Create!

1. Select a larger box to be a room.
2. Turn the box on its side so that the opening is facing you. You should have a floor and 3 walls!
3. Decide how you will decorate. Will your floor be made of "wood" (draw it with marker) or carpet (a piece of old blue jeans or fabric)?
4. Decorate your walls. Will they be painted or will you use "wallpaper" (paper glued to the walls)?
5. Think of other features that rooms might have, such as ceiling lights, ceiling fans, or a chandelier - can you make these from things you have?
6. Decide what type of room you have created and what type of furniture it needs.
7. Is it a kitchen? What can you use to make a table & chairs? A refrigerator? Can you use small bottle caps for plates?
8. Is it a bedroom? How can you build a bed? Can you cut pieces of cardboard and tape them together to make a bed? What can you use for a blanket (a piece of an old t-shirt)?
9. Is it a living room? How will you make a couch? A TV? A bookshelf?
10. Are there any other decorations you can create? A clock? A picture frame?

How Does it Work?

Models and dollhouses have been popular since the 1500s! Tiny rooms and the objects inside are reduced to the same ratio, or scale, with items in real life. This scale has changed over time, with different types of toys using their own familiar scaling. For more information on types of scales and how to calculate them, visit:

https://shopofminiatures.com/blogs/little-shop-blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-dollhouse-scale

Take it Further!

Discover the Thorne Rooms at The Art Institute of Chicago:

https://www.artic.edu/departments/PC-15/thorne-miniature-rooms